

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH  
FDA  
5630 FISHERS LANE  
ROOM 1601  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

9455 '99 APR 21 110:23

Dear FDA:

I AM WRITING TODAY TO EXPRESS MY STRONG OBJECTION TO COSTLY AND UNNECESSARY RULES WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONSIDER BY THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.


AS MY FAMILY HAS WORKED IN THE OYSTER INDUSTRY FOR MANY YEARS AND WHO UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY FARMERS, PROCESSORS AND OTHERS WHO RELY ON SHELLFISH, I CAN TELL YOU FIRST-HAND OF THE ECONOMIC DAMAGE THESE PROPOSED RULES WILL INFLICT UPON US.

MOST PEOPLE IN OUR INDUSTRY OWN SMALL OPERATIONS WITH LITTLE FINANCIAL STABILITY AND FEW CASH RESERVES. FORCING US TO COMPLY WITH MANDATORY TREATMENT WILL DRIVE MANY OUT OF BUSINESS ALTOGETHER AND GREATLY REDUCE OUR LIMITED PROFITS EVEN FURTHER. SIMPLY STATED, WE CAN'T AFFORD THE COSTLY EQUIPMENT AND CANNOT ABSORB THE LOWER CONSUMER DEMAND WHICH RESULTS FROM TREATED OYSTERS. YOU WILL END UP FORCING A LOT OF FISHERMEN TO APPLY FOR WELFAIR.

CONSUMERS SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE BETWEEN TREATED OYSTERS AND FRESH OYSTERS. THE SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MAY BE AT RISK SHOULD HEED THE AMPLE HEALTH WARNINGS AVAILABLE WHERE FRESH OYSTERS ARE SOLD AND ASSUME THEIR OWN LEVEL OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY JUST AS WITH CIGARETTES, ALCOHOL & DRUGS, THIS IS DISCRIMINATION AND IS UNFAIR TO OYSTER FISHERMEN.

I DEMAND THAT THE FDA REJECT THESE CRIPPLING RULES AND TO ALLOW OTHER APPROPRIATE INDEPENDENT STATE AND NATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS ISSC TO CONTINUE TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND OVERSIGHT OF ACTIVITIES AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.

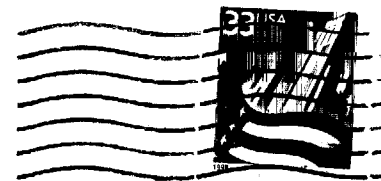
THANK YOU,

WARD TASSIN  


98P-0504

C/26

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